

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014255

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ C12N9/22, C12N15/55, C12P19/34

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ C12N9/22, C12N15/55, C12P19/34

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

JSTPlus (JOIS), SwissProt/PIR/GeneSeq, Genbank/EMBL/DDBJ/GeneSeq,
BIOSIS/WPI (DIALOG)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	Amarasinghe A.K. et al., Escherichia coli ribonuclease III: affinity purification of hexahistidine-tagged enzyme and assays for substrate binding and cleavage, Methods Enzymol., 2001, Vol.342, pages 143-58	1-4, 9-10, 14-15 5-8, 11-13, 16-17
X A	Bernstein E. et al., Role for a bidentate ribonuclease in the initiation step of RNA interference, Nature, 2001, Vol.409, No.6818, pages 363-6	2-4, 9-10, 14-15 1, 5-8, 11-13, 16-17
X A	Knight S.W. et al., A role for the RNase III enzyme DCR-1 in RNA interference and germ line development in Caenorhabditis elegans, Science, 2001, Vol.293, No.5538, pages 2269-71	2-4, 9-10, 14-15 1, 5-8, 11-13, 16-17

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
14 December, 2004 (14.12.04)Date of mailing of the international search report
28 December, 2004 (28.12.04)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	Zhang H. et al., Human Dicer preferentially cleaves dsRNAs at their termini without a requirement for ATP, EMBO J., 2002, Vol.21, No.21, pages 5875-85	2-4, 9-10, 14-15 1, 5-8, 11-13, 16-17
A	OHTANI N. et al., Heat labile ribonuclease HI from a psychrotrophic bacterium: gene cloning, characterization and site-directed mutagenesis, Protein Eng., 2001, Vol.14, No.12, pages 975-82	1-17
A	Welker C. et al., Cloning, overexpression, purification, and physicochemical characterization of a cold shock, protein homolog from the hyperthermophilic bacterium Thermotoga maritima, Protein Sci., 1999, Vol.8, No.2, pages 394 to 403	1-17

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
(See extra sheet.)

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Continuation of Box No.III of continuation of first sheet (2)

The matter common to claims 1 to 17 resides in "a polypeptide having an RNase III activity".

However, this "polypeptide having an RNase III activity" is obviously not novel and thus the "polypeptide having an RNase III activity" falls within the category of prior art. Therefore, the above common matter is not a special technical feature in the meaning within the second sentence in PCT Rule 13.2.

That is, there is no matter common to all claims.

Since there is no other common matter of a different meaning seemingly a special technical feature in the meaning within the second sentence in PCT Rule 13.2, no technical relevancy can be found out among these inventions different from each other in the meaning within PCT Rule 13.

Such being the case, it is obvious that claims 1 to 17 do not comply with the requirement of unity of invention.